

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2 May 2008 has been entered.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Shima discloses an inkjet recording apparatus and a cap for a recording head where "when the rib 24 deforms by a predetermined amount and the cap section 21 approaches the nozzle-forming surface 6b, as shown in FIG. 4, the stoppers 25 abut the nozzle-forming surface 6b of the recording head 6. Since the stopper 25 is formed larger in thickness than the rib 24, the stopper 25 scarcely deforms in the vertical direction even when abutting the nozzle-forming surface 6b" (Column 6, lines 30-37). However, Shima does not disclose the corners of the rib are made thinner than the other portions of the rib.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Geoffrey Mruk whose telephone number is (571)272-2810. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am - 4:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/G. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 2853
6/1/2008

/STEPHEN D. MEIER/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2853